

VILNIUS CATHEDRAL
Founded in 13th, reconstructed in the 18th century—now converted into an art museum.

theological works, or periodicals. All Catholic schools have been suppressed.

Lithuania had 708 churches and 314 chapels. Over 300 churches have been converted into factories, warehouses, or garages. Some churches of great historical and architectural value, have been turned into museums: the Cathedral of Vilnius is now an art museum; the Church of Saint Casimir in Vilnius is an anti-religious museum; the unusually beautiful early Baroque monastery of Pažaislis is an art gallery. The same fate has befallen other churches.

Hundreds of thousands of Lithuanians have been torn from their homes and exiled to Siberia. Over 130,000 have died in

mass executions or have perished from starvation, epidemics and ill-treatment. After long years of unspeakable hardship, only about 35,000, mainly broken in health, have been permitted to return to Lithuania. About 140,000 Lithuanian exiles still remain in Siberia.

These are grievous facts. But it is still sadder to contemplate the future. Today in Soviet occupied Lithuania, a father or mother is liable to three years imprisonment if they dare to teach religion or even prayers to their children under eithteen years of age. In the schools, pupils and students are closely watched and are craftily questioned about their own religious attitudes and the practice of religion in their families. Students belonging to families which practice religion, or who themselves are suspected of religious leaning, have no access to higher education. There is no future for them in Lithuania. Eventually they will be sent to Siberia to cultivate the wilderness and remain there for the rest of their days.